

HOUSE BILL 3562
By Odom

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 7;
Title 33 and Title 68, relative to a pilot project for
behavioral health services in certain counties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. (a) In any county having a metropolitan form of government and a population of not less than one hundred thousand (100,000) according to the 2000 federal census or any subsequent federal census, the commissioner of health is authorized to establish a pilot project with the local health department for such county for the delivery of certain behavioral health services in accordance with the provisions of this act. Subject to the availability of funding, the pilot project shall be in existence for five (5) years and shall be evaluated as the commissioner shall direct.

(b) The pilot project shall seek to provide to residents of the pilot county with access to behavioral health services regardless of ability to pay by means of a central point of entry.

(c) Subject to the availability of funding and in addition to any other activity it is authorized by law to undertake, the county health department for the pilot project county is authorized to provide the following services to persons who have limited resources in a central point of entry system: psychiatric evaluations; emergency placements; prescription psychotropic medications, subject to limit of a sixty (60) day supply; care coordination; referral services; short term follow-up care; and comprehensive community outreach provisions.

(d) The services provided pursuant to subsection (c) shall seek to permit residents to become and remain stable in transition until the individual is initiated into a comprehensive community treatment plan. This plan should allow the individual to receive ongoing medication

management and treatment for continued stabilization while increasing the public safety of the community as a whole.

(e) The primary target population for the pilot project shall be underinsured and uninsured persons residing in the county who suffer from some form of a behavioral health issue.

(f) The project shall involve some form of local match, which may be in in-kind services.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.